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This week we started off with attending the Presidential Scholars event at the Kennedy Center. After work, we came together at the dorms along with my fellow OME intern, Cinthia, and we walked to the Center together after work. We saw a spectacular performance by the Scholars who had been preparing for just a few weeks. There was modern dance, singing, and several instrumental performances. My favorite was the tap dance performance and the flute solo. The building itself was gorgeous with chandeliers and big staircases. The girls put our *chanclas (sandals)* in our purses when we switched into heels before we went inside the Kennedy Center. I've learned to carry the most interesting things in my purse, like itch cream for the mosquitos and face wipes because otherwise my face will break out.



On Tuesday we got a super big project and I spent most of the week working on that. Karan asked everyone to dress colorful so that day I wore a bright red dress. We took some silly pictures and someone mentioned how we looked like a little circus. It was a celebration of the beginning of summer. The Office has a great atmosphere and I love how everyone is so welcoming. I have continued meeting with staff members. It was reassuring to hear how everyone has a different journey to their current positions.



During a staff meeting I got to learn about how the office interacts, gives feedback, and learns from one another. That was one of my highlights of the week. I am learning about how I can try to be a good leader and team member. During another meeting, my supervisor gave me, on behalf of the team, a little trophy. The trophy was for helping on some information that was sent out and it made me feel really special as a contributor to the work of the Office.

On Friday, we had some great CHCI information that came our way. First we went to the House side of Congress to meet with some Latino staff members. It was so cool to be in the actual meeting rooms where big decisions take place. Then we went back to the University of Phoenix where we heard information from Teach for America, the Peace Corps, and City Year. What was most impactful about the programming was the documentary, *Inocente*. It was the story of a young woman, Inocente who was undocumented, homeless, and an incredible artist. Through her optimism and perseverance,

she helped her family out of poverty. After CHCI, I headed out and went to the Jazz in the Park with the Office of Migrant Ed. It was nice to get to know people outside of the work space.

By far, Saturday was one our highlights this summer. That day, we started off early in the morning to meet Dr. Ramirez. She was going to take the CAMP interns, Cinthia, and Ruby paddle boarding. We arrived at Pohick Bay in Virginia and Ariana, Gabe and I got a canoe. We were having a good time and then, out of nowhere, we tipped over. I think it was because when we got a little wobbly, I shifted too much to one side. We were sooo relieved that no one had their phones with them. We lost all our plastic water bottles too. We were just bobbing around on the water, trying to flip our canoe over. The paddles were all drifting away and we had to secure them onto the little canoe. Eventually, they saw our raised S.O.S. paddle and the employees came on a little motor boat to pick us up. After that, we got another canoe and we headed out to where the others were paddle boarding. We somehow all traded places and I managed to get on a paddle board by myself. I was moving along pretty well at first but I kept drifting toward the shore and I couldn't steer it away. I did this probably like five times. Everyone had already paddled to shore and Ariana was holding up behind to help me. Finally, after maybe twenty minutes, I made it back. Even though I couldn't steer, I really want to go and try it again. We were heading back to the metro when Dr. Ramirez invited us to her home for a barbecue. As one big team, we all came together to make hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks. We sat on her back porch and all together we kept the conversation flowing. We discussed issues in education, what we are learning from our internship program, the dynamics of D.C., finance, and what would keep us from continuing in education. It was one of the most enlightening conversations I've ever had. That day, we headed back to D.C. on a late night metro ride.



On Sunday, I woke up a little later than usual. I made some family calls and did laundry. Then we went out to Chinatown to eat at Fulkee. I had already ate lunch so I just got some rice for about \$2. Good deals. It was scorching hot and we were able to catch our first ride on a DC metro bus. Then we went to the museum of Natural History. I was so excited to see the T-Rex but he was getting fixed. There were some other dinosaurs though. A cool surprise was seeing the real Heart of the Ocean, from Titanic. I can't even imagine how expensive it is. Afterwards, we went to the park to write our journals by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It

was all going well until the mosquitos came. Soon after, we walked to the Jefferson and Roosevelt Memorial. It was very calm and almost spooky at night. It was a jam-packed weekend, although I was a little sore. It was my fault for being sore because I didn't stretch after all the physical activities!

